

Insanely great.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life." *Thanks, Steve.*

"What's 43 Folders?"

43Folders.com is **Merlin Mann's** website about finding the time and attention to do your best creative work.

Instapaper 4: Deciding to Read

Merlin Mann | Oct 17 2011



Introducing Instapaper 4.0 for iPad and iPhone

The lede here is that my pal, **Marco**, has just **released** the stellar new 4.0 version of his **Instapaper** suite.

This is fantastic news, and—as if you needed one more of Marco's beta testers to say so—I do sincerely hope you'll mark the occasion (and support his hard work) by **purchasing the Instapaper iOS app(s)**. I promise you'll be treating yourself to a massive update to an already excellent product.

Now, it's fortunate and appropriate that you'll be hearing this advice at length from a lot of people this week. Because, if it's not already obvious, Marco's little app (and its associated services) enjoys a rabid fanbase of sundry paragraph cultists who are as eager as I am to spread the word; and, yes, we do want you to join the Reading Nerd cult.

But, I also want to mark the occasion by adding a few thoughts on exactly what Instapaper has done, and continues to do, for me. (As you may already know, I'm a **big Marco fan**.)

Thing is, I want to tell you how Marco has made a magical machine for people who have *decided* to read.

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43folders "Introducing Instapaper 4.0 for iPad and iPhone" Go, **@marco!** You have (another) serious grand slam here. **i-0.us/pvQNSI**
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43folders [iOS] When editing text, a 2-finger L-R swipe selects the whole paragraph. New

Cranking

Merlin Mann | Apr 22 2011

1.

Nothing wrecks your living room decor quite like a giant, rented hospital bed.

The one my Dad laid in for a couple months in the fall of 1974 was an alarmingly stiff and sturdy affair, the frame of which was forged of impossibly heavy iron, with half a dozen jaggy coats of putty-flesh latex paint doing a shit job of concealing the dings and dents kissed by dozens of clutches of burly rental guys trying to navigate unaccommodating residential doors.

Jammed cattywampus between a teddy-bear brown sectional, an antiqued rococo credenza, and what had until recently been my Father's favorite armchair, the hospital bed left little room for easy socializing, let alone aesthetic speculation. This was a living room where a very ill person would mostly die soon.

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Scared Shitless

Merlin Mann | Mar 28 2011

Merlin Mann - "Scared Shitless: How I (Mostly) Learned to Love Being Afraid of Pretty Much Everything"

Download MP4 Video of "Scared Shitless"

This is the video of a talk I did last month at [Webstock](#) in Wellington, New Zealand.

It's pretty different from a lot of stuff I've done. It's about [being scared](#).

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Nerdiest Interview Ever: MPU Workflows Part II

Merlin Mann | Mar 27 2011

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(and a godsend) to me! [i-0.us/nuHqoj](#)
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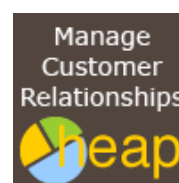
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Fear

[Merlin Mann](#) | Feb 5 2011

Non-Obligated Webstocky Offer: Wanna interview me?

  **Merlin Mann**  to Mike, Natasha [show details](#) 14:47 (0 minutes ago) [Reply](#) 

Beloved Mike & Exquisite Tash—

FWIW, I'd be happy and honored to be interviewed for the site. Just if you're interested. I'm no John Gruber, but I can clean up nice when I need to.

Totally unrelated: I am working on the Long-Overdue Official Title and Description for My Big Webstock Talk™. As we speak/email/read. I swear.

Working title: **"Scared Shitless: How I (Mostly) Learned to Love Being Afraid of Pretty Much Everything."**

Something like that. But, without the swear word, right? I shouldn't swear. Not in New Zealand. That'd be kind of a dick thing to do. What, with Amanda Palmer being there and stuff.

In any case, I think it'll be funny, honest, fresh, and unintentionally inspiring. Working along those lines right now. Literally, right now.

Hm. Come to think of it, feel free to just use **^ that title ^** if it suits you. If you want to put a fire under me. Or, maybe you could just put a literal fire under me. I can show you where I hang out if you want to send a fire. I'd sign for it.

Okay. So, this email turned out to be about more than an offer to interview me. Which is weird.

But, fear. Yeah. See? It works. I think.

This will be a good talk if it kills me. I really hope it doesn't kill me. I just put a new ink cartridge in my printer, and I'd hate to waste it. Those things are costly, and I hate wasting ink.

I love you,
/m

Merlin D. Mann
Indie Writer & Speaker
[merlinmann.com](#)

So, yeah. I'll be **speaking** at **Webstock** pretty soon. Which is *insanely* intimidating.

I think I may have my topic.

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Video: John Roderick on String Art Owls, Copper Pipe, and Bono's Boss

[Merlin Mann](#) | Jan 21 2011

[Jump to video](#)

Long story (not very) short? One night in 2003--after *killing it* in front of audience of about 30 lucky people in Oakland--**The Long Winters** needed a place to crash, and my wife and I were happy to oblige.

So, they drove their Big Stinky Blue Van over the bridge, slept on our floor, and by breakfast the next morning, it'd become clear to me that I'd provided lodging to a man who was not only very likely a member of my **karass**--he was also one of the smartest bullshit artists I'd ever met.

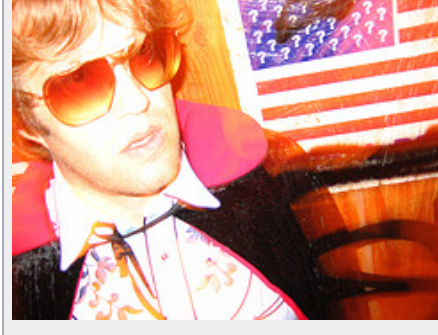
Almost eight years later, although I don't see him nearly as much as I'd like, I still count the guy as one of my best pals ever.

That's John Roderick.

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An **Oblique Strategy**:

Honor thy error as a hidden intention

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THE GOOD STUFF

Cranking

Merlin used to crank. He's not cranking any more.

This is an essay about family, priorities, and Shakey's Pizza, and it's probably the best thing he's written. »

Scared Shitless

Merlin's scared. You're scared. Everybody is scared.

This is the video of Merlin's keynote at Webstock 2011. The one where he cried. You should watch it. »

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